

Docket No.: 50212-380

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of	:	
Katsuya NAGAYAMA, et al.	:	
Serial No.:	:	Group Art Unit:
Filed: April 03, 2002	:	Examiner:
For: METHOD OF MAKING OPTICAL FIBER	:	

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please amend the application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 5, page 20 as follows:

The buffer chamber 241 (second buffer cell 245) and the protecting tube 21 are partitioned with a partition wall 251. The partition wall 251 is formed with an optical fiber passage hole 254 through which the optical fiber 3 passes. The optical fiber passage hole 254 has an inner diameter set to about 4 to 5 mm. A major part of the gas introduced into the second buffer cell 245 is let out from the outlet duct 248. Here, the N<sub>2</sub> gas or the like is not introduced for filling the protecting tube 21 with the N<sub>2</sub> gas or the like, but for preventing the He gas or the like from flowing into the protecting tube 21.

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